PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING: A SYNOPSIS OF SHORT- AND LONG-TERM TRAINING CONDUCTED BY THE AQUAFISH CRSP

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The Aquaculture and Fisheries Collaborative Research Support Program (AquaFish CRSP) is actively engaged in aquaculture and fisheries research, training, and outreach activities in 17 countries in Africa, Asia, and the Americas. These efforts are made successful through close collaboration between researchers and educators at 16 US and 29 Host Country institutions. One of the key objectives of the AquaFish CRSP is to build and strengthen the capacities of aquaculture and fisheries institutions and personnel at all levels.

Capacity building under the AquaFish CRSP largely emphasizes human resource and institutional development through training and outreach activities. Training supported by the program takes a number of forms, with the most important being short-term and long-term training programs. Short-term training is under 6 months in duration and typically includes seminars, workshops, short-courses, and internships. Long-term training is defined as formal training occurring in an academic setting lasting 6 months or longer and culminating in either an academic degree or a technical certificate. Ensuring gender-equitable access to training opportunities and resources is a high priority in all aspects of the CRSP’s capacity building activities and therefore a target for participation by women is set at 50%. During 2010 the AquaFish CRSP supported 196 long-term trainees and 25 short-term training events including 694 trainees. Since its inception in 2006, the program has supported the training of 288 long-term students and conducted 115 short-term trainings involving over 4000 trainees.

AquaFish CRSP capacity building efforts benefit stakeholders in the US and in participating Host Countries through the transfer of knowledge and technology and the dissemination of information about best management practices, offering increased economic opportunities that ultimately enhance the sustainability of aquaculture and fisheries in all regions.